

CHEET

Crime Drama | 60 minutes | Bootle, Liverpool

Comparable with: Breaking Bad, Top Boy, This is England

Writer: Murphy Roberts

Episodes: 6

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Budget: £10-15million

All Cheet wants is a normal life with a normal family, but no matter how hard he tries, he just can't seem to manage it. He's 21, real name Danny Kelly, and spends his days caring for his sick and elderly grandad, Jack – the last living relative he has left and a hard man to impress. They live on the breadline, struggling to keep the electricity running, but still somehow managing to feed their bad habits, like smoking weed or betting on the horses. Cheet makes a lot of daft choices, but he tries his best.

One day, his daft choices finally catch up with him when a misunderstanding at the benefits office turns into an outright altercation. In one quick rush of blood to the head, he loses all of his state welfare and is left with no means of income. He tries to get a job, but with no skills and no experience he struggles, so he turns back to his old friend Smig, until he can get back on his feet. He accepts what should be a lowkey, low-risk job trimming weed plants, but another daft mistake – this time to do with the crop filters that hide the smell – cocks everything up completely, and puts them on the radar of the new rising star of the underworld: Steven Dawick.

Cheet and his gang manage to escape by the skin of their teeth, but they leave casualties in their wake, and Dawick wants revenge. A rivalry is then set in motion, with Dawick hunting Cheet down and going after his gang.

Little by little, the humble life he's built for himself begins to fall apart, as he struggles to keep his stories straight and explain his increasingly erratic behaviour. Violence creeps closer to their front door and Cheet disappears until late into the night, putting his grandad at great risk and shattering any illusion of a normal life. Tension mounts, friends become harder to trust and new challenges emerge when Cheet starts to make money from his exploits.

For Cheet, the saving grace in a world of trouble is Lauren. She is Jack's nurse who visits the home twice a day every week day. She bears witness first-hand to Cheet's hard life and resentful grandad; she sees for herself every day, how he breaks his back caring for him. Cheet and Lauren share a connection that blossoms into a romance. But even their relationship comes with risk as Lauren's half-sister just so happens to be Kerry – a Detective Inspector for a special task force division of Merseyside Police. She's a veteran cop, devoted to fighting criminal men, just like Cheet, because of things that have happened in her own family life.

Family has never been easy for Cheet either. His mother died in childbirth, and he has never known his father, not even his name. He's always insisted that he didn't care but in truth he's been searching for him, albeit subconsciously, for his entire life.

Little does Cheet know, by entering this new tormented life of crime, he's taken one significant step closer to finding him.